

**ADMINISTRATIVE
RECORD
Fact Sheet**

ATSDR/ EPA Libby Health Initiative

Draft for Review

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Introduction

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under which ATSDR will conduct a series of initiatives designed to add to the understanding of long-term health effects of exposure to asbestos amphibole in Libby, Montana, and the surrounding community. The work is estimated to take about five years, and will involve an investment of about \$8 million.

Purpose

This fact sheet will explain what ATSDR will do with the \$8 million and how this work will help the Libby community and others.

What is ATSDR going to do?

ATSDR will conduct several activities aimed at addressing gaps in knowledge about the effects of exposure to amphibole asbestos:

- Epidemiological studies of persons exposed to Libby asbestos will include
 - Health evaluations of persons originally exposed to Libby amphibole in childhood,
 - Expanded evaluation of persons exposed in Libby, including those with a lower level of exposure,
 - Assessing whether there are health effects of exposure that are not related to lung disease, such as auto-immune conditions,
- Enhancement of systems to track health outcomes related to exposure and to link this information with other databases, such as those maintained by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health or EPA.

Activities conducted by ATSDR, EPA, or others

- Create computer or mathematical models that will help explain what level of exposure ("dose") leads to health effects.
- Completion of Digital Comparison Study in which computer-generated diagnosis tools (such as by CAT scan) are compared with film X-rays to understand which is more accurate.
- Update the Tremolite Asbestos Registry (TAR) including updated information on asbestos-related diseases and deaths among exposed persons.
- Further investigation of worker exposures and health effects in Marysville, OH. In addition to the projects in Libby, ATSDR will support further investigation of persons in Marysville, Ohio, because newly obtained data about worker exposures there may help in developing reference toxicity values.